

Andres and Monica Acosta

Dear Brothers and Churches,

December 2009

Our family sends to you our gratitude and glory to our great God for a year full of blessings, along with trials. To think that during this past year we both lost our parents; my mother is with the Lord and Monica's father is also in His presence. But, we have hope and consolation that we will be together again and for that we thank you for your prayers and support.

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us." Matthew 1:25

I was thinking about Joseph receiving this message from God one night a few months before the birth of the Lord Jesus. His future wife was pregnant but it was not a foolish adolescent thing. It was the work of the Holy Spirit. And the son she was expecting was not just any child; it was God Himself. This was a message difficult to believe; it sounded like an excuse. But, it was real. So real, that God sent an angel to convince Joseph to not act foolishly.



God reminded Joseph that the baby Mary was expecting was Jesus Christ, God with us. The same eternal and powerful God was going to make physical contact that day with His very irresponsible and wicked creation. God was going to live with humans as one of them.

What would Joseph think if he should wake up today? He would be disappointed to see how humanity has forgotten the true meaning of Christmas and waste their time on unimportant things. He would be sad to see how we all wish everybody a Happy Christmas but forget about Jesus Christ, the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is not a table laden with food, a Christmas tree with gifts, nor a past-due family gathering. Christmas is the Birthday of our Lord Jesus, nothing more/nothing less. We do many things on that day except celebrate it as the day that God came to be with us.

Let this Christmas be different. Remember, it is not just one more holiday. You are celebrating the wonderful news that God became man to be with you and me. It is time for us to celebrate as it should be celebrated. Live and celebrate a different way this Christmas. Celebrate the most awesome miracle of all time: **JESUS WAS BORN!**

Think About This – God is in you and with you. Let's live and celebrate because we are His!

Your Servants in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andres and Monica'.

Andres and Monica